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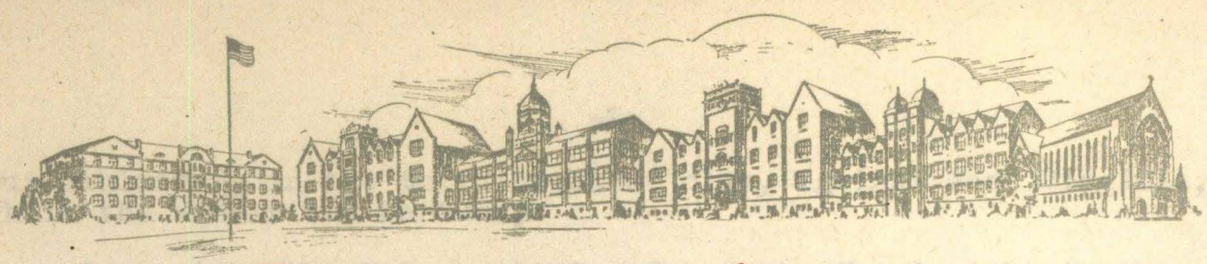

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

March 21, 1946
Number 83

Dear Mules:

Time again for another issue of this news-carrier to all you men still wearing G.I. duds, so here goes. We've got a lot of sports to catch up on, plus some other news around the campus and the world so let's get to it.

My last letter was written just before the Middle Atlantic Conference battles were held at Grace Hall, Bethlehem, on March 11 and 12. The game with Lafayette was one of those which had the fans hanging from the rafters for most of the time and if anyone had tested the collective blood pressure of the crowd before and after the contest, the charts would have looked like the stock market on a very bad day. Lafayette defeated the 'Berg hoopsters 59-58 in an overtime period, climaxing one of the hottest games ever played on local courts. The men from Easton came from behind five times during the regulation contest to tie the score, and each time the Mules surged ahead, holding, at one stage of the final quarter, a ten point lead, but when the whistle sounded, ending the game, the score was again all tied up. In the torrid five minute overtime period, the Lafayette crew again had to come from behind, for Red Baldwin scored first to put the Mules in the lead. With a minute and a half remaining, Bill Anderson's men forged ahead 59-58 and then successfully "froze" the ball to take the contest. It was a real thriller and had the fans groggy from excitement. The following night, Muhlenberg whipped Ursinus 67-30 to take consolation honors, while Lafayette defeated Rutgers 52-39.

Rated the underdog against a powerful Syracuse team, Muhlenberg went to Madison Square Garden on Saturday night, March 16th, for the third successive year of play in the Natioal Invitation Tournament. Muhlenberg fans had been agog over the performance of the team all season and they faithfully followed by train, several busloads, countless private cars, and a few of the faithful, a bit short on cash, hitchhiked over to the big city to see the team in action. They were rewarded by a sizzling game in which the 'Bergmen eliminated the Orange of Syracuse by the tune of 47-41. Before a sellout crowd of more than 18,000 fans, Baldwin, Donovan, and Company, continually had the huge crowd on their feet as they dropped in goals from all angles and displayed brilliant floor play. Holding a half time lead of ten points, 28-18, the boys, coached by Lee Coker, were hard pressed by the determined New York crew, but staved off rally after rally to upset the dopesters and go into the semi-final round. Red Baldwin was the individual star of the night, with seven field goals and nine fouls for a total of 23 points.

Monday night of this week, the Mules met Rhode Island State and ran into one Ernie Calverley, who racked up 27 points to lead his team to a 59-49 victory over the Mules. Calverley, who on Saturday night, had electrified the huge crowd with a fifty-five foot field goal in the closing seconds of the game to give his team a victory over Bowling Green, was too much for the Mules, as he dazzled and swept and generally dominated play on the court. Muhlenberg took an early lead, but the speedy five from New England caught fire and the half ended with 'Berg on the short end of a 32-24 score. Red. Baldwin, who was again high scorer for the Mules with eight field goals and two fouls for 18 points, opened the second half with three rapid buckets, which cut the winner's lead to 32-30. Calverley and his mates again caught fire and successfully protected their lead to the end of the game. The loss, although disappointing to the fans,

put Muhlenberg in the third night of play, against West Virginia, while the winner met Kentucky.

Last night the Mules, playing for their third night in the tournament, bowed to a sharp-shooting team from West Virginia by the score of 65-40. Again jumping off into an early 7 point lead, the Mules were unable to stop the tight defense of the Mountaineers, who really were clicking on all cylinders. Red Baldwin went out on personal fouls during the second period and Van Combs was the high scorer for the Mules with 13 points which the lanky lad from Kentucky dropped through the hoop. However, win or lose, the fans are planning a giant welcome for the team when they arrive in Allentown this afternoon. An auto caravan will bring the team to the campus where short appropriate ceremonies will honor the men who brought national recognition to the college.

Last night's game closed one of the finest seasons ever enjoyed by a Muhlenberg squad. Twenty-five victories in thirty games against top flight opponents is a grand record and the work of the team has been the prime topic of conversation all over the city. To select any player as top man would be a very difficult task, for all through the season, each man gave his best efforts and the results speak for themselves.

Harry Donovan, nineteen year old Muhlenberg guard, who was fourth in scoring in the State of Pennsylvania with 335 points for the season's total, was signally honored the other day by his selection to play with the All-East team in the New York Herald Tribune East-West college All-Star game in Madison Square Garden on Saturday, March 30. It marks the first time that a Muhlenberg player has been chosen to participate in an All-Star game outside of the city as a representative of the college. Joe Lapchick, coach of St. John's, who will tutor the All-East team, rated Harry as a "terrific ball player who rates much consideration before the Gold Star medal award is made to the best visiting ball player at the Garden this season".

Death has again struck at the ranks of the trustees of Muhlenberg when the news reached the campus of the untimely passing of Attorney J. Myron Shimer, '07. Mr. Shimer, who met with an automobile accident in Philadelphia, died in the Nazareth Hospital of that city and was buried March 8 at Zionsville. A former teacher of history at Temple University before devoting his time to the practice of law, Mr. Shimer was very active in the affairs of the church and the college, and his loss will be greatly felt.

I think I told you in my last letter that we had seven hundred men in the student body at college this semester. Haps has just given me the revised figures and I am happy to announce that 723 men are engaged in study at college. This is an all time high and even surpasses the figure of 610 which we reached in 1943 when we had the unit of 500 men on the campus. The current student body includes 564 civilians and 159 Bluejackets who are on the campus for the last term of the V-12 program. Of the 564 civilians, 415 are veterans who are studying for their degrees under the G.I. Bill of Rights. George Sweda has been elected President of the Student Council and is planning the resumption of the many extra curricula activities which had been abandoned during the war.

The drive for funds for the new Field House, which will be an added asset to the campus, is gaining momentum with every meeting of alumni. Three meetings have been held to date; Philadelphia, where graduates and former students pledged just short of $12,000, Bethlehem, where $1600 was raised, and Reading, where, in an enthusiastic rally held Monday night of this week, $12,300 was secured for this worthy project. Two more rallies are scheduled for tonight and tomorrow night, and at least ten more centers will hold meetings. The alumni are enthusiastic over the project and undoubtedly will reach the goal set by the Executive Committee who pledged themselves to raise $150,000 among the alumni outside of Allentown. The Allentown campaign, with about 85% of its goal reached, is continuing its drive and promises good reports soon.

The mail bag is rather thin this time, and I hope that this condition is caused by many of you who are in the discharge process or hoping to be there soon. Let me repeat, please keep us informed of your address changes so that our records may be kept up to date. Every day letters are returned to us bearing the notation "Returned to States" or some other cryptic remark which tells us that many of you are moving. Right now, take out time to drop me a line, if your address has changed recently. Thanks, I knew you would. And now for the mail.

DONALD BROBST '46 reports another address change from Germany. He is now stationed with the Berlin District Headquarters, APO 755, New York, New York.

CAPTAIN EDGAR M. ERNST '38 changed his address again, the other day, because he wants to be sure to get all the news coming from college. ED reports that he played golf, for the first time in about three years, and that the only thing that he can brag about is that he didn't lose a ball. He complains of an acute shortage of good stateside balls--same thing here, ED. For the record, he can be reached at 895 Medical Clearing Company, APO 660, c/o PM San Francisco California.

A fine letter from JIM HEMSTREET '44 arrived last week. He has moved from Okinawa and is now awaiting the atom bomb experiment scheduled for May 1. His ship is one of those scheduled to be a guinea pig in the forthcoming experiment, and while waiting the arrival of the rest of the fleet, spends his time in swimming and acquiring a sun tan. A few sharks sighted the other day did not discourage the boys from their daily dip, although they confined their swimming to the regular Navy beach.

According to word received from his mother, LIEUTENANT PAUL STOVER '44 has left the Palau Islands for Guam and reassignment, and he has high hopes that it will be Stateside. If you would like to know what it feels like to play blindman's bluff at 200 miles an hour, write BILL EVANS '45. BILL'S squadron is being inactivated, and he is playing the favorite Navy game of waiting for his next assignment--either as a Civilian First Class or some other squadron.

Putting on another half stripe and chasing his ship all over the Stateside ports has occupied FRED HEUER'S time for the past month or two. FRED is aboard one of the newest hospital ships as assistant navigator. He admits that it took him three days before he could find the wardroom without getting into the ship's office or the psycho-neurotic ward. FRED is another 'Berg representative who is planning to see the atom bomb experiment.

Recently, a batch of newly-graduated medicos descended upon the fair city of Allentown, prepared to start interning at the Allentown Hospital on April 1. These Muhlenberg stalwarts include BOB PLOTNICK, CHARLIE SCHIFFERT, and BILL MUELHAUSER, all from the class of 1943. SCHIFFERT and MUELHAUSER graduated from Hahnemann while PLOTNICK received his M.D. from Penn.

CAPTAIN CARL W. BOYER '23, former faculty member in the Department of Education, dropped into the office yesterday. CARL looks good and is stationed at Philadelphia where he is administering tests to newly-formed cadres of men, and doing counseling and guidance work. EVAN R. BARTLESON is another member of the class of 1937 to don civilian clothes. He was promoted to Captain on January 3 and is associated with the Globe Ticket Company in St. Louis, Missouri.

Space is running short so it's time to close. We'll be back again in two weeks with more news about you men, spring sports, reunion plans, news about the Field House, and other items of interest. Let me repeat; we welcome your letters and particularly your address changes. Keep them coming.

Cordially,

John

John H. Wagner
Alumni Secretary